

What is Fair Housing?

Fair housing is your right under the law to compete equally for housing, without regard to race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, family status, marital status, handicap or age, and, to that end, to prohibit discrimination in housing by any person.

Fair Housing is a right protected by federal and state laws. Fair housing means you may freely choose a place to live without regard to your race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or because you are disabled or have children in your family.

Housing discrimination is illegal.

Learn to recognize the signs of discrimination in rental, sales, and lending.

If You Think Your Rights Have Been Violated:

HUD, State of Florida and Leon County Division of Housing and Human Services is read to help with any problem of housing discrimination. If you think your rights have been violated, you may write a letter or telephone one of the following offices:

Fair Housing Enforcement Center
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Richard B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street, SW, Room 230
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3388
404.331.5140
1.800.440.8091

Florida Commission on Human Relations
325 John Knox Road
Building F, Suite 240
Tallahassee, Florida 32303-4149
850.488.7082
1.800.342.8170

Leon County Housing and Human Services
918 Railroad Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32310
850.488.7790

Web site:
<http://www.co.leon.fl.us/comserv/hhs.htm>

LEON COUNTY



FAIR HOUSING CODE

FAIR HOUSING IS YOUR RIGHT!

It is the policy of Leon County, in keeping with the laws of the United States of America and the State of Florida, to promote through fair, orderly and lawful procedure the opportunity for each person so desiring to obtain housing of such person's choice in this county.

*If you have been denied your housing rights...
You may have experienced unlawful discrimination.*

How Do You Recognize Housing Discrimination?

Housing discrimination is rarely blatant. It is usually cleverly disguised and, more often than not, is done with a smile and a handshake.

What is Prohibited?

In the Sale and Rental of Housing: No one may take any of the following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, family status, marital status, handicap or age:

- ▶ Refuse to rent or sell housing
- ▶ Refuse to negotiate for housing
- ▶ Make housing unavailable
- ▶ Deny a dwelling
- ▶ Set different terms, conditions or privileges for sale or rental of a dwelling
- ▶ Provide different housing services or facilities
- ▶ Falsely deny that housing is available for inspection, sale or rental
- ▶ For profit, persuade owners to sell or rent (blockbusting) or
- ▶ Deny anyone access to or membership in a facility or service (such as a multiple listing service) related to the sale or rental of housing.

In Mortgage Lending: no one may take any of following actions based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, handicap or sexual orientation:

- ▶ Refuse to make a mortgage loan
- ▶ Fail to provide information regarding loans
- ▶ Impose different terms or conditions on a loan, such as different interest rates, points, or fees
- ▶ Discriminate in appraising property
- ▶ Refuse to purchase a loan or
- ▶ Set different terms or conditions for purchasing a loan.

In Addition: It is illegal for anyone to:

- ▶ Threaten, coerce, intimidate or interfere with anyone exercising a fair housing right or assisting others who exercise that right
- ▶ Advertise or make any statement that indicates a limitation or preference based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, handicap or sexual orientation.

This prohibition against discriminatory advertising applies to single-family and owner-occupied housing that is otherwise exempt from the Fair Housing Act.

If you have experienced housing discrimination, call and report it today. The next time you face delays or denials when you are trying to find housing,

Be Suspicious And Report The Problem.

